

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1) A method of sharing information on-line, the method comprising:
  - A) connecting a plurality of computers as a network, the plurality of computers being configured to be used by computer users;
  - B) providing individual storage devices to each of the plurality of computers;
  - C) allowing the computer users to visit web pages;
  - D) creating cookie entries when the users visit web pages, each cookie entry comprising a description of contents of web pages;
  - E) storing the cookie entries of each computer user into their respective storage devices;
  - F) allowing at least one computer user to enter a search query; and
  - G) comparing the search query with the cookie entries stored in the individual storage devices, thereby providing the user who entered the search query an option to limit the search within the web pages visited by the plurality of computer users.
- 2) The method of claim 1, wherein each cookie entry comprises a uniform resource locator of the web page visited.
- 3) The method of claim 2, further comprising providing the user, who entered the search query, with the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry that matched the search query.
- 4) The method of claim 2, further comprising storing the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry that matched the search query and releasing said uniform resource locator to the user who entered the search query when the user is connected to the network.

- 5) The method of claim 1, further comprising alerting the computer user whose storage device contains a cookie entry that matches the search query.
- 6) The method of claim 2, further comprising allowing the computer user, whose storage device contains a cookie entry that matches the search query, to deny the release of the uniform resource locator.
- 7) The method of claim 6, further comprising disguising the computer user, whose storage device contains a cookie entry that matches the search query and who denied the release of the uniform resource locator, as a computer user without said cookie entry.
- 8) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the computer users to specify which computer user may run a search query through their individual storage devices.
- 9) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the computer users to specify which individual storage devices they want to have access.
- 10) The method of claim 2, further comprising creating a key and associating said key to a uniform resource locator.
- 11) The method of claim 10, wherein each cookie entry further comprises an expiration date, the expiration date being configured to cause a change in the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry, the method further comprising updating the association of the key and the uniform resource locator after the expiration date.
- 12) A device comprising:
  - A) a plurality of interconnected computers, each of the plurality of interconnected computers being configured to be used by a computer user, each of the plurality of interconnected computers comprising a storage device, each storage device

being configured to store a cookie entry when the computer user using the respective computer visits a web page, the cookie entry comprising a description of web page content and a uniform resource locator of the web page; and

- B) at least one processor in communication with the plurality of interconnected computers, the processor being configured to accept a search query from a computer user, compare the search query with the cookie entry, and provide the computer user with the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry that match the search query.

13) The device of claim 12, further comprising a mapping service provider connected to the plurality of interconnected computers, the mapping service provider being configured to create a key for a uniform resource locator of a webpage, associate the key to the uniform resource locator, and store said association.

14) The device of claim 13, wherein the processor is configured to cause the mapping service provider to update the stored association between the uniform resource locator and the key with at least one change in the uniform resource locator.

15) The device of claim 13, wherein the cookie entry further comprises an expiration date, the occurrence of the expiration date being configured to cause a change in the uniform resource locator, the method further comprising allowing the mapping service provider to update the stored association between the uniform resource locator and the key with the change.

16) The device of claim 12, wherein the processor further comprises a real time messenger program, the real time messenger program being configured to prompt the user to enter a search query.

17) The device of claim 16, wherein the real time messenger program is configured to inform the computer user of the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry that match the search query.

18) The device of claim 16, wherein the real time messenger program is configured to allow users of the plurality of interconnected computers to pick which users may access their individual storage devices.

19) The device of claim 16, wherein the real time messenger program is configured to allow users of the plurality of interconnected computers to pick which individual storage devices they want to search.

20) The device of claim 16, wherein the real time messenger program is configured to notify the user whose individual storage device contained the cookie entry that matched the search query about the search, the real time messenger program being further configured to allow the user whose individual storage device contained the cookie entry that matched the search query to control the release of the uniform resource locator to the searching user.

21) The device of claim 20, wherein the real time messenger program is configured to allow the user whose individual storage device contained the cookie entry that matched the search query to edit information to be released to the searching user.

22) A method of conducting an on-line search, the method comprising:

- A) allowing a first user to visit at least one web page;
- B) creating a cookie entry for the web page visited, the cookie entry comprising a description of web page content and a uniform resource locator of the web page;
- C) storing the cookie entry to the storage device of the first user;

- D) allowing a second user to enter a search query;
  - E) comparing the search query with the cookie entry stored in the storage device of the first user; and
  - F) forwarding the uniform resource locator of the cookie entry to the second user if the search query matches the description of the web page content.
- 23) The method of claim 22, further comprising alerting the first user of the search query and the identity of the second user, if the search query matches the description of the web page content.
- 24) The method of claim 23, further comprising allowing the first user to prevent the forwarding of the uniform resource locator to the second user.
- 25) The method of claim 24, further comprising preventing the second user from knowing that the first user prevented the forwarding of the uniform resource locator.
- 26) The method of claim 22, further comprising associating a key with the uniform resource locator of the web page and forwarding the key instead of the uniform resource locator to the second user.
- 27) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a key storage device for storing the association of the key and the uniform resource locator.
- 28) The method of claim 27, further comprising resolving the uniform resource locator from the key storage device and forwarding the uniform resource locator to the second user.
- 29) A device comprising:
- A) a first computer, the first computer comprising a first storage device, the first computer being configured to be used by a first user, the first storage device being configured to store at least one cookie entry, the cookie entry comprising a

description of the web page visited by the first user and a uniform resource locator corresponding to the web page;

- B) a second computer connected to the first computer, the second computer comprising a second storage device, the second computer being configured to be used by the second user, the second storage device being configured to store at least one cookie entry, the cookie entry comprising a description of the web page visited by the second user and a uniform resource locator corresponding to the web page;
- C) a mapping service computer in communication with the first computer, the mapping service computer being configured to associate an individual key to each uniform resource locators stored in the first and second storage devices, the mapping service computer being further configured to store the associations between the key and the uniform resource locator, wherein the first user may enter a search query and cause the second computer to accept the search query and compare the search query with the cookie entry stored in the second storage device, if the search query matches the stored description of the web page, the second computer being configured to provide the key to the first computer, the first computer being configured to cause the mapping service computer to resolve the uniform resource locator of the web page from the key and forward said key to the first computer.